EXHIBIT A
CLAIMS ON APPEAL

The following is a list of all claims, pending or cancelled, incorporating all amendments and revisions to date. All non-cancelled claims are on appeal, cancelled claims being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

a. blending a backing film composition, said backing film composition including an ethylene based copolymer;

b. extruding the backing film composition;

c. calendering the backing film composition between a top roll and a center roll to form a backing film layer;

d. blending a polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, said polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition including a hydrocolloid; and

e. calendering the adhesive composition between the center roll and a lower roll to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition is applied and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film layer is achieved in a single manufacturing step.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of adhering a release liner layer to a lower surface area of the hydrocolloid dressing.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A calendered hydrocolloid dressing prepared by the method of claim 21 or 22.

Claim 24-25 (cancelled)

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein said ethylene based copolymer is one or a combination of any of an ethylene acrylic acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene ethyl acrylate or ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 100% by weight ethylene-based copolymer, wherein the ethylene-based copolymer is about 21% by weight comonomer.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein material comprising the backing film layer further includes low density polyethylene homopolymer.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein material comprising the backing film layer further includes additives.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the additives are selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, stabilizers and processing aids.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 65% to about 100% by weight ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, from about 0 to about 35% by weight low density polyethylene, about 0.05 to about 2% by weight of any one of or combinations of any of antioxidants, processing aids or stabilizers.

Claim 32-33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive composition comprises at least one rubber.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the rubber is any one of or a combination of any one of styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene-styrene copolymers, styrene-butylene-styrene copolymers, butyl rubber and polyisobutylene.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer further comprises at least one additive.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein the additive is any one or a combination of any of tackifiers, stabilizers, plastifiers, processing aids or therapeutic agents.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 15% to about 40% by weight polymer, about 10% to about 50% by weight hydrocolloid, and about 10 to about 75% of by weight additives.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 58% by weight polyisobutylene, about 12% by weight butyl rubber, about 7% by weight plasticizer and 23% by weight hydrocolloid.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially transparent or clear.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially flesh colored.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer is about 5 to about 50 mils and wherein the backing film layer is about 0.5 to about 10 mils.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

a. blending a backing film composition containing an ethylene-based copolymer;

b. extruding the backing film composition;

c. calendering the backing film composition between a first roll and a second roll to form a backing film layer;

d. blending a polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition containing hydrocolloids; and

e. calendering the polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition between the second roll and a third roll to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition is introduced and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film composition is achieved in a single manufacturing step.

Claim 44 (Cancelled)

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

a. blending a thermoplastic elastomeric backing film composition;

b. extruding the thermoplastic elastomeric backing film composition;

c. calendering the thermoplastic elastomeric backing film composition between a first roll and a second roll to form a backing film layer;

d. blending a polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition containing hydrocolloids; and

e. extruding and then calendering the polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition between the second roll and a third roll to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition is applied and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said polymeric pressure-sensitive adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film layer is achieved in a single manufacturing step.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of adhering a release liner layer to a lower surface area of the hydrocolloid dressing.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A calendered hydrocolloid dressing prepared by the method of claim 45 or 46.

Claim 48 (Cancelled)

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein said thermoplastic elastomeric backing film composition is an ethylene based copolymer.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The method of claim 49, wherein said ethylene based copolymer is one or a combination of any of an ethylene acrylic acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene ethyl acrylate or ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 100% by weight copolymer, wherein the copolymer is about 21% by weight comonomer.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the backing film layer further includes low density polyethylene homopolymer.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the backing film layer further includes additives.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method of claim 53, wherein the additives are selected from the group of antioxidants, stabilizers and processing aids.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 65% to about 100% by weight ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, from about 0 to about 35% by weight low density polyethylene, about 0.05 to about 2% by weight of any one of or combinations of any of antioxidants, processing aids or stabilizers.

Claims 56-57(Cancelled)

Claim 58 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive composition comprises at least one rubber.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The method of claim 58, wherein the rubber is any one of or a combination of any one of styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene-styrene copolymers, styrene-butylene-styrene copolymers, butyl rubber and polyisobutylene.

Claim 60 (Cancelled)

Claim 61 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer further comprises at least one additive, wherein the additive is any one or a combination of tackifiers, stabilizers, plastifiers, processing aids or therapeutic agents.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 15% to about 40% by weight polymer, about 10% to about 50% by weight hydrocolloid, and about 10 to about 75% of by weight additives.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 58% by weight polyisobutylene, about 12% by weight butyl rubber, about 7% by weight plasticizer and 23% by weight hydrocolloid.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially transparent or clear.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially flesh colored.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the adhesive layer is about 5 to about 50 mils and wherein the backing film layer is about 0.5 to about 10 mils.